

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claims 1-36 are pending.

Applicants acknowledge the re-opening of prosecution in view of the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Request filed September 6, 2007.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0027527, hereinafter referred to as the '527 publication. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, "*signing an access operation to electronic data by specifying the user signature and the role signature.*" This feature is not disclosed or suggested by the '527 publication.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 4 of the '527 publication, a user submits his/her credentials as part of a request for access to information on a secure server 36. In response, the secure server 36 sends an authentication query to authentication server 12. The authentication server 12 authenticates the user's credentials and stores a time-stamped record of the authentication.

Once authenticated, the authentication server 12 sends a token 90 including an encryption portion 94 to the secure server 36. The encrypted portion 94 includes the user's login name and the identification of the secure server 36.

The token 90 also includes information enabling the secure server 12 to apply business rules to the particular user. For example, the token 90 includes an identification of a user group to which the particular user belongs. A list of applicable business rules can be forwarded to the user 40 to indicate to the user the types of access and actions the user is permitted to take with respect to storing files.

Assuming the user is permitted to take a desired action, the user must re-submit his credentials so that he/she can be re-authenticated 78 prior to completion of the transaction. A record of the re-authentication is stored in the database 24.

The Examiner relies upon the token 90 and the business rules described in paragraph 39 of the '527 publication to allegedly teach the "user signature," and the "role signature," of claim 1. But, access by the user are not signed by specifying the token 90 and the business rules. To the contrary, the system of the '527 publication tracks user access by maintaining records of *each authentication*. See paragraph [0041]. As the Examiner will appreciate, the authentication refers to the user's credentials, which include, for example, biometric information submitted by the user. The user's credentials are not the token 90 or the business rules.

Accordingly, even assuming *arguendo* that the token 90 and the business rules disclosed by the '527 publication could even arguably be considered the similar to the "user signature," and the "role signature," of claim 1, respectively

(which Applicants do not admit), access by the user is not signed by specifying the token 90 or the business rules. Thus, the '527 publication does not disclose or fairly suggest at least, "*signing an access operation to electronic data by specifying the user signature and the role signature*," as required by claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the '527 publication. Claims 2-8 and 16-22 are patentable over the '527 publication at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Independent claims 9 and 29 are patentable over the '527 publication for at least reasons somewhat similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 10-15, 23-28, and 30-36 are patentable over the '527 publication at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 9 or 29.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-36 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

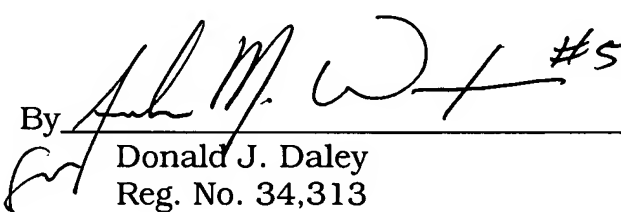
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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